

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09238 060554Z

11
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 SY-05

IO-13 /034 W
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O P 060530Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 1518

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9238

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD CAPE ERIMO

REF: STATE 194693

1. COINCIDENTALLY, SUMPATKUMAR CAME IN FOR ONE OF OUR TALKS JUST AFTER WE RECEIVED REFTEL AND I WAS ABLE TO TELL HIM WHAT I KNEW ABOUT THE CAPE ERIMO REFUGEES AND THE GOS RESPONSE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH HIS ASSISTANT IN SINGAPORE AND SEEMED TO BE FULLY INFORMED ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT DISCOURAGED BY THE GOS ATTITUDE. HE FULLY AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE BAD POLICY TO TRY TO URGE THE SHIP ON TO PROT KLANG OR TO APPROACH THE GOM ON THE MATTER AS IT WOULD WEAKEN UNHCR'S LEVERAGE WITH BOTH GOVERNMENT. HE HAS ALSO DISCOURAGED THE CAPE ERIMO OWNERS FROM CONSIDERING TRANSFERRING THE REFUGEES TO ANOTHER SHIP BOUND FOR JAPAN OR FOR THIS SHIP TO PROCEED TO HONG KONG SINE EITHER OF THESE MANEUVERS WOULD BE UN-ACCEPTABLE TO HKG OR GOJ. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT USG CAN- NOT GUARANTEE PAROLE FOR REFUGEES BUT FEELS THAT COMBINA- TION OF UNHCR APPEAL, POSITIVE US REPSONSE TO THAT APPEAL WHICH I READ TO HIM AND OUR EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO MOVE QUICKLY ON APPLICATIONS COULD INDUCE GOS TO RELAX
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ITS POSITION. COMMENT: IN CASE SAMPATKUMAR DOESN'T GET

AROUND TO IT, EMBASSY SINGAPORE MIGHT WISH TO PASS ON HIS
VIEWS TO THE LOCAL UNCHR REP FOR USE IN FUTHER APPROACHES
TO GOS.

2. SAMPATKUMAR IS GOING TO STAY ON IN HONG KONG FOR ONLY
A FEW MORE DAYS TO NAIL DOWN HKG POLICY ON FUTURE REFUGEES
AND THEN WILL RETURN TO SINGAPORE AND KUALA LUMPUR TO
DEAL WITH CASES THERE, ESPECIALLY THE CAPE ERIMO GROUP.
HE INTENDS TO SEND AN ASSISTANT HERE LATER IN ORDER TO
MAINTAIN UNCHR PRESENCE WHICH HE FEELS, AND I AGREE, IS
IMPORTANT FOR LONG-RANGE SUCCESS AND AS REINFORCEMENT OF
THE UNHCR'S APPEAL.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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